

The Mississippi Poetry Podcast Supplement

Ep. 1: Aimee Nezhukumatathil

1. Listen (15 minutes). Play *The Mississippi Poetry Podcast w/ Aimee Nezhukumatathil*

2. Write (10-25 minutes, as time allows)

Materials Needed:

notebook

pen/pencil

Writing Exercise: Be a Noticer

This exercise can be done indoors or outside. Ask participants to describe the colors they see around them in their own original way. They should try to avoid, as Aimee Nezhukumatathil says in her interview, naming any colors that can be found in a pack of Crayola 64 crayons—remember her example of “the sky is the color of the inside of a frog’s lung” instead of “the sky is pink.”

Other examples:

My shirt is the color of a ripe tomato.

The pencil is the color of a “yield” sign.

Participants can also be figurative, if they want: *My backpack is the color of boredom.*

The dry erase marker is the color of a hot spring day.

Modification Option:

This exercise can also be done using different senses: sound, smell, touch, taste. For these senses, ask participants to describe what they notice through comparison. For example: *The pencil sharpener sounds like a car that can’t quite start. The chairs scraping on the floor sound like angry pigs.*

3. Share (5-10 minutes)

If time and comfort levels allow, invite participants to share their observations!

Related Materials:

Aimee Nezhukumatathil’s [website](http://aimeenez.net): aimeenez.net

Poem: [“On Listening to Your Teacher Take Attendance”](http://poetryfoundation.org/poems/145657):
poetryfoundation.org/poems/145657

Video: [The blanket octopus](https://youtu.be/MJS2oYvi9CI) (2 min.): youtu.be/MJS2oYvi9CI

